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# ❖ PACER Service Center ❖

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**Announcements**

**<http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov>**

**July 2005**

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## **NEW! Free Written Opinions**

In the spirit of the E-Government Act of 2002, modifications have been made to the District Court CM/ECF system to provide our customers with access to written opinions free of charge. The modifications also allow PACER customers to search for written opinions using a new report that is free of charge. Written opinions have been defined by the Judicial Conference as “any document issued by a judge or judges of the court sitting in that capacity, that sets forth a reasoned explanation for a court’s decision.” The responsibility for determining which documents meet this definition rests with the authoring judge.

This functionality will only be available in courts that have installed District Court CM/ECF version 2.4 or higher, and will only provide free access to opinions filed after the court is actively using version 2.4. There may still be a charge to access opinions that pre-date the court’s use of version 2.4. The new report is available under the Reports menu. PACER customers can also access opinions via existing reports and queries, such as the docket report, and will not be billed for accessing the written opinion document itself, but will be billed for the report or query used to identify the document. For example, if a PACER customer runs a docket report, the customer will be charged for the docket report. If the customer then clicks on the document number hyperlink for a written opinion document, the customer will not be charged for viewing the document. Future versions of Bankruptcy CM/ECF will have similar functionality.

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### **Update PACER Account**

Changes or updates to account information may be completed at our home page under “Account Information:”

Go to our home page **<http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov>**  
Select Account Information  
Enter PACER login and password  
Select “Change Account Information”

Other options also available under the Account Information section of our home page are Check Balance/Make Online Credit Card payment, Update Credit Card/Sign Up for Automatic Payment, Review Quarterly Statement, Change Account Password, Review Transaction History, and more.

### **USPCI: New Search Option**

In response to requests from the public, functionality was added to the U.S. Party/Case Index that allows a customer to search by the last four digits of the Social Security Number when combined with at least three characters of the last name. Previously, the complete social security number was required. The search functionality at the individual PACER and CM/ECF sites has not changed.

To use the new functionality, login into the U.S. Party/Case Index. From the main menu, click on the “Bankruptcy” search. Enter the last four characters of the social security number along with at least three characters of the last name, then click “Search.” If you are searching with the entire Social Security Number or Tax Identification Number, the party name is not required.

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**Helpful FAQ’s:** PACER Frequently Asked Questions are located at our home page **<http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov>**. The FAQ’s are updated on a regular basis and may help resolve some of your questions.

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## PACER Fee Increase

A fee increase from \$.07 per page to \$.08 per page for public access to court electronic records (PACER) was approved by the Judicial Conference at its September 2004 session. The fee increase applies to all systems (CM/ECF, PACER, RACER, etc.) and became effective January 1, 2005. The 30-page cap on case-related reports and documents will remain in effect. However, the maximum cost will be \$2.40. See article below for details regarding the 30-page cap.

## Cap on Case-Related Documents and Reports

The Judicial Conference, at its September 2003 session, amended the language of Section I of the Electronic Public Access Fee Schedule. The previous schedule placed a cap of 30 pages for electronic access to any single document. The amendment extends this cap to include docket sheets and case-specific reports, with the exception of transcripts. The cap does not apply to case listings or name search results. While the cap applies to all systems, the transaction receipt will not reflect this change in older PACER and RACER systems and may not be reflected immediately in CM/ECF systems. During the transition period the PACER Service Center will cap eligible transaction just prior to loading them to the PACER Service Center web site each month. To view the capped transactions use the Review Transaction History option in the Account Information section. The quarterly statements will be calculated using the capped transactions.

### Questions or Comments regarding information in the announcement?

Email [pacer@psc.uscourts.gov](mailto:pacer@psc.uscourts.gov) or call (800) 676-6856.

#### Case Management

### CM / ECF

#### Electronic Case Files

Your PACER login and password will only allow access to Queries and Reports. A court assigned filing ID must be used to file a case or file documents to a case in courts offering electronic case filing. Please contact the appropriate court to obtain a filing ID. See CM/ECF Information at <http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov> for a listing of courts offering electronic case filing.



The PACER Service Center hours of operation are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Central Time. Monday through Friday and is closed for Federal holidays. Remaining holidays for which the PACER Service Center will be closed are September 5 for Labor Day, October 10 for Columbus Day, November 11 for Veteran's Day, November 24 for Thanksgiving, and December 26 for Christmas.

## Automatic Billing

PACER customers now have the option to sign up for automatic credit card billing. Customers that sign up for this option will have the amount due each quarter charged to a credit card on file with the PACER Service Center without having to visit the web site or call. Balances of \$10 or more are applied to the credit card on file just before payment is due.

At <http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov>  
Select Account Information  
Enter PACER login and password  
Select "Sign Up for Automatic Payment"

It is possible to update or change the credit card information on file under this option as well.

## Other Billing Info

For your convenience, the PACER Service Center accepts Discover, VISA, MasterCard, and American Express. Login to the Account Information section at <http://pacer.psc.uscourts.gov> to pay by credit card.

Payment for balances less than \$10 will automatically be deferred until the balance is \$10 or more. No phone call is necessary.

The PACER Service Center's Federal Tax ID Number is 74-2747938.

Effective April 1, 2004 a fee of \$45 will be assessed if a check is returned for non sufficient funds.